

Articles to be inquired

Of, in the first Metropolitall Visitation
of the most Reuerend Father: *Richarde*
by Gods Prouidence, Archbushop of Canterbu-
ry, and Primat of all ENGLANDE: in, & for, all chiefe Diocesses
following, (Viz.) Exeter Norwich, Chichester, St. Davids,
Landaffe, Heriford, Worcester, Bristol, Bath & Wells
and Coventrie & Litchfield, in the yeare of our
Lorde God, 1605. and in the first yeare of his
Graces Translation.
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At London Printed by Ralph Blower, for
Thomas Pavier, and are to be solde at his Shop
neare the Royall Exchaung. An. Dom. 1605.



THE

Tenor of the Oath, to be ministred
to the Church wardens & Swornemen.



OV shall sweare, that all Affection, Fauour, Hatred hope of Rewarde & Gaine, or feare of displeasure or malice set aside: You shall vpon due Consideration of the Articles giuen you in chardge: present all and enery such person, of, or within your parish: as hath comitted any offence or fault: or made any default: mentioned in thiese or any of thiese Articles: or which are vehemently suspected & defamed of any such Offence: fault or default: where in You shal deliuer vprightly, and according to truth: neyther of malice, presenting any contrary to truth: nor of corrupt affection sparing to present any, and so conceale the truth: Hauing in this action God before your Eyes: with an earnest Zeale to maintain truth and to suppress vice: so help you God, & the contents of this booke.

God saue the King.





To be inquired of, by the Churchwar-
dens & sworne-men: in the Visitation
of the Lorde Archbushop of Canter-

bury: within the x. Diocesses mencioned
in the first Title of this Booke.

Anno Dom. 1605.

IN PRIMIS, Whether hane you in your
seuerall Churches and Chappels, the booke
of Constitutions, or Cannons Ecclesiastis-
call: ready to be Read by your Minister,
according to his Maiesties pleasure, Pub-
lished by his Highnes Authozitie, vnder
the great Seale of ENGLANDE: And
whether hath your Minister read y same,
or any part thereof, bypon Sundayes and
Hollydayes in the afternone, befoze diuine Seruice accordingly,
yea or no?

2 Item, Whether is there any within your Parish, that hath
as doth impugne the Kings Maiesties Supremacy and Authozity

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In causes Ecclesiasticall: or do any way, or in any part impeach the same, being Restored to the Crowne by the Lawes of this Realme established in that behalfe:

3 Item, Whether is there any in your Parish, that denieth the Church of Englande, by Law established vnder the KINGES most Excellent Maiestie, to be a true and an Apostolicall church, Teaching and mainteyning the doctrine of the Apostles:

4 Item, Whether is there any in your Parish, that doth impugne any of the Articles of Religion, agreed vpon in Anno 1562, and established in the Church of Englande?

5 Item, Whether doth your Minister vse to pray for the Kings Maiestie, King IAMES, and for the Queenes Maiestie, the Prince, and all their Royall Progeny, with addition of such Title and styles, as are due and apperteyning to his Maiestie, and exhort the People to obedience to his Highnes, and other Maiesties being in authority vnder him?

6 Item, Whether is there any in your Parish, that doe impugn or speake against the Rites and Cerimonies, Established in the Church of Englande, or the lawfull vse of them? You shall present their names.

7 Item, Are there any in your Parish that doe impugn the gouernment of the Church of Englande, vnder the Kings most Excellent Maiestie, by Arch-bushops, Bushops, Deanes, Archdeacons, and the Rest that beare Office in the same: Affirming that the same is Antichristian, or Repugnant to the worde of God?

8 Item, Is there any in your Parish, that doth impugn the Foyme of Consecrating and Ordeyning of Arch-bushoppes, Bushoppes, Priests or Deacons: Affirming that the same is Repugnant to the word of God: or that they who are soe ordeined in that foyme, are not lawfully made.

9 Item, Is there any in your Parish that doth holde or frequent any Conuenticles, or priuat congregations: Or any that do together make or maintaine any Constitutions agreed vpon, in any such

such priuat conbenticles or assemblies:

10 Item, Whether any persons haue lurked and Lipped in Taverns or Ale-houses, vpon Sundayes or other Holydayes, or vsed his or their manuel Craft or Trade, vpon the saide Dayes or any of them, and especially in the time of diuine Seruise.

11 Item Are there any in your Parish, that doe or haue Profaned (since his Maesties last Generall Pardon) the Lordes Day called Sunday, or other Holydaies, contrary to the Orders of the Church of Englande, prescribed in that behalf:

12 Item, Whether is the prescript forme of diuine Seruice vsed by your Minister, vpon Sundayes and Holydayes, according to the Booke of Common prayer: And whether doth your Minister duely obserue all the Orders, Rites and Ceremonies, prescribed in the said Booke of Common Prayer: as well in Reading publique Prayers, the Letany: as also in Administring the Sacraments, in such manner and forme as in the Booke of Common Prayer is iniointed:

13 Item Whether hath any Person in your Parish quarelled or stricken, or vsed any Violence, vnso, or with your Minister, or any other in the Church or Church-yarde. or vsed himselte disorderly in the Church, by filthy and prophane talke, or any other rude and immodest behauiour:

14 Item Whether is that due Reuerence, and humble submission vsed within your Church or Chappell, in the time of diuine Seruise, as by the Eightenth Constitution is prescribed: Whether each one in the Church or Chappell, do apply, and order himselte there, in time of diuine Seruise, as by the latter parte of the same Constitution is most commendably enioyned:

15 Item, Whether the Church-wardens and Questmen, from time to time, doe their diligence, in not suffering any to
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ble persons or Apterers, to abide eyther in the Churchward
or Church-porch, in Service or Sermon time. But causing
them eyther to come into the Church, to heare Diuine Ser-
uice, or to depart, and not to Disturbe such as are Hearers
there.

16 Item, Whether the Church-wardens doe provide a-
gainst euery Communion with the aduice of the Minister, a
sufficient quantity of fine whit Bread, and of good and whole
some Wine for the Number of the Communicants that shal
receiue, and that to be brought in a cleane & sweet standing
Pot of Pewter, or of other pure Mettle?

17 Item, Whether doth your Minister administer the ho-
ly Communion so often, and at such times as that euery pa-
rishioner may Receiue the same, at the least thrice in euery
yeare, whercof, once at Easter, as by the Booke of common
Prayer is appointed? And whether doth your Minister Re-
ceiue the same himselfe, on euery Day that he administreth
it to others, and vse the wordes of the Institution, according
to the Booke, at euery time that the Bread or Wine is renewed,
in such manner and forme, as by the Proviso of the one and
twentieth Cannon is directed, or wherein is he faultie? And
whether is warning giuen by him befoze hand for the Com-
munion, as the 22. Cannon requireth?

18 Item, Whether hath your Minister admitted any
notorious Offenders, or Schismatickes, to the Communion:
contrary to the Six and Twentieth, and Seauen and Twen-
tith Constitutions.

19 Item, Whether the Minister together with the Church-
wardens and Auelmen, doe take diligent hede and care:
not only that all and euery of your owne Parishioners, doe
receiue thrice in euery yeare, as aforesaid: but also, that no
Strangers of any other Parish doe come often, and common-
ly to your Church from their owne Parish Church: and you
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are notwe to present the names of all those, who being xvj. yeares of age or bpwardes and haue not in their owne Parish receiued the Communion, at or since Easter last.

20 Item, Haue any in your Parish bin Godfathers or Godmothers to their owne children: or whether your Minister, or any Godfathers or Godmothers haue vsed, or doe vse any other forme, answer or speach in Baptisme: then is in the Booke of common praier appointed: or whether any which haue not communicated, be admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers:

21 Item, Whether doth your Minister vse to signe the Children with the signe of the crosse, when they are baptised: according to the booke of common praier: and whether he hath referred, or wilfully refused, to baptise any Infant in his Parish being in danger, hauing bin duely informed of the weakenes thereof: and whether the childe hath dyed in his default without baptisme:

22 Item, Whether is your Minister continually resident with you vpon his benefice: or for how long time hath he bene absent: And where is he Absent for the most part, and what other benefice hath he?

23 Item Whether doth your minister preach vsually according to the constitutions: either in his owne cure with you, or else in some other church or chappell nere adioyning, where no preacher is: or how often hath he bin negligent in this behalfe?

24 Item. Whether is your Minister a Preacher allowed if yea: then by whom: if not, Whether doth he procure sermons to be preached among you once in euey month at y least, by such as are lawfully licensed

25 Item Whether hath your Minister another benefice, and whether doth he supply his absence by a Curat that is sufficiently licensed to preach in that cure of his, whereon he himselfe is not resident? or otherwise in case he doth not find a preaching Minister there, by reason of the smallnesse thereof? Whether doth he preach at both of his benefices usually himselfe?

26 Item, Whether is your curate licensed to serve by the Bishop of this Dioces, or any other, and by whom?

27 Item Whether doth your minister or curat serve any more cures then one? if yea, then what other cure doth he also serve?

28 Item, If your Minister be not licensed to preach as aforesaid, whether doth he take upon him to expound the Scriptures, either in his owne cure or else where? if yea, then you are to present him, and specifye the place where he so hath preached.

29 Item, Whether hath any person bin admitted to preach within your Church or chappell, but such as you haue well knowne to bee sufficiently licensed? whome haue you so admitted, you shall present their names, and how often haue any suche bin so admitted to preach, and by whose procurement? And Whether haue you caused euery strange preacher, licensed or not licensed, to subscribe his name together with the daye when he preached: and if he were licensed, then by whome was he licensed? and whether haue they or any other preached in your Church not being soberly or decently apparelled?

30 Item, Whether doth your Lector & Preacher reade Divine seruice, and administer the Sacraments in his owne person twice every yeare, obseruing all the Ceremonies in the Booke of Common prayer established?

31 Item, Is there any in your parish, that doe refuse to haue their children baptized: or themselves to receiue the Communion at the hands of your Minister because he is no preacher. You shall present their names. And if your minister sithence the publishing of the said booke of Canons, hath receiued any such Persons (being not of his owne cure) to the communion, or baptized any of their children: you shall likewise present him.

32 Item, Whether doth your Minister wear the Surplice whilst he is saying the publike prayers, and ministering the sacraments: And if he be any Graduat, Whether then doth he also weare vpon his Surplice, during the times aforesaide, such a whome as by the orders of his Vniuersity is agreeable to his degree?

33 Item, Whether doth your Minister every Sunday and holliday before Euening prayer, for halfe an houre or more, examine and instruct the youthe and ignorant persons of his parish, in the ten commaundments, Articles of beliefe, and in the Lords prayer, as also in the Catechisme, set forth in the booke of common prayer: And whether doe all Fathers, Mothers, Maisters and Mistresses, cause their children, seruantes and apprentises, to come thither to heare and to be instructed and taught therein, and those that doe not their duties herein you shall present their names.

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34 Item, Whether hath your Minister without license from the Archbushop, Bushop of the Diocesse or his Chancelloz, solemnized mariage betwixt any parties, the banes not being three seuerall sundaies or hollidaies first publiht in time of diuine seruice, in the seuerall Churches or Chappels, of their seuerall abode according to the booke of Common prayer, and that also betwixt the houres of eight & twelue in y^e fore-none. And furthermore, whether hath your minister since the last Cannons published, solemnized any marriage betwixt any persons beeing vnder the age of one and twenty yeares, although the banes be thrice asked, before such time as the parents haue made knowne vnto him their consent thereunto and whether hath hee married any of an other Diocesse, who are they? and by what authozity, and when?

35. Item, Whether doth your Minister euery Sunday, bidde hollidaies and fasting daies, as by the booke of common praier is appointed?

36. Item, Whether doth your minister euery s^ure monethes, denounce in his parish, all such of his Parish as do perseuer in the sentence of excommunication, not seeking to be absolved, and whether hath he admitted into the Church any person excommunicate, without a certificat of his absolution from the ordinare or other competent iudge?

37 Item. Whether doth your Minister beeing a preacher, endeuor and labour diligently, to reclaine the

the popish recusants, in his parish from their errors : if there be any such abidinge ? and whether is he painefull in visitting the sick according to the booke of Common prayer ?

38. Item, Whether is your Parson vicar or Curat, to frequent or to be ouer-conuersant with, or a fauorēt of recusants, whereby he is suspected not to be sincere in religion.

39 Item, Whether doe you know or haue heard of any payment, Composition or agrēment, to, or with the Bishop, Chancelor, or any inferior Officer Ecclesiastical, for suppressing or concealinge of excommunication, or other Ecclesiasticall censure, of, or againste anye Recusant ? What summe of Money, or other Consideration hath binne received or promised ? by, or to any of them in that respect by whom : and with whom : and for what sum or other consideration ?

40 Item, Whether is there in your church or chappell one parchment Register Booke, provided for christnings, Mariages, and Burials, and whether is the same duely and exactly kept according to the constitutions in that behalfe provided ?

41 Item, Whether hath your minister or any other preacher, bap̄tised children, solemnized Marriage, churched any woin in or ministrēd the holy communion in any priuate house or houses, otherwise then as by law is allowed yea or no : if yea, then where : whom : when and how often hath he offended in anye of the Premises.

42. Item, Whether hath your minister taken vpon him to appoint any publique or priuate Fastes, prophecies, or exercises not approued and established by Law or publique authoritie, or hath hee attempted vpon any pretence eyther of possession or ob- session, by fastinge and prayer to cast out deuils yea or no ?

43 Item, Whether hath your minister or any other person or persons: within your parish vsed to meet in any priuat house or other place, there to consult together, how to impeach or depaue the booke of Common prayer, or the Doctrine or Discipline of the Church of Englande, if yea, then you shall present them all ?

44 Item, Whether doth your minister vse such decencie and Comlinesse in his apparell, as by the 74 constitution is intoynd ?

45 Item, Whether doe you knowe anye in your parish that hauing heretofore taken vpon him or them, the order of Priest-hode or of a Deacon, hath since relinquished the same, and betaken him- selfe in the course of his life as a laye man neglecting his vocation if yea, then you shall present his name, and the place of his abode ?

46 Item. Doth any take vpon him to teache Schole in your parish without speciall licence of his ordinary: and whether doth your School-maister bzing his schollers to the church to heare Divine seruice and Sermons ?

47 Item, Whether is your minister noted or defamed to haue obtained his benefice by Symony, or reputed to be an incontinent person, a common drunkard a common gambler, or player at dice, or faulty in any other crime punishable by the Ecclesiasticall censures, whereby he is offensive and scandalous to his function or Ministry.

48 Item, Whether haue you provided the booke of common prayer lately set forth by his Maiesties authoritie, and the booke of Homilies, and whether haue you in your church or chappell a Font of stone set vp in the ancient vsuall place, a conuenient communion Table with a carpet of silke, or some other decent stuffe, and a faire linnen cloth to lay thereon at the Communion time, & whether is the same Table then placed in such conuenient sort within the Chancel or church, as that the minister may be best heard in his prayer and administration, & that the greater number may communicate : And whether are the ten commandments set vpon the East ende of your Church or Chappell, where the people may best see and reade them and other sentences of holy scripture written on walles likewise for that purpose :

49 Item, Whether haue you a conuenient seate for your Minister to read Seruice in, together with a comely Pulpit sett vp in a conuenient place with a decent cloth or cushion for the same : a comely large Surplice, a faire Communion Cup of gold, silver, or other pure mettall, and a couer agreeable for the same, with all other thinges and ornaments necessarie for the celebration of diuine Seruice and administration of the Sacraments :

50 Item, Whether are your Churches or Chapels with the Chancels thereof, and your personage or Wickeredge house and all other housing thereto belonging in good reparations, and decent and comely kept as well within as without, the seates well maintained, a sure coffer with three lockes and keyes for the safe keeping of your Register booke, your churchyardes well fenced and kept without abuse, if not, then through whose default and what defects are?

51 Item, Whether haue you or your predecessors Churchwardens there suffered since the last pardon, any plaies, feasts, banquets, Church ales, drinkinges, or any other prophane vsages to be kept in your church, chappell or churchyard, or belles to be rung superstitiously vpon hollidaves or daies abrogated by Law.

52 Item, How many inhabitantes within your parish, men or women aboue the age of sixteen yeres, do refuse to frequent diuine seruice established by publike authoritie of this Realme, or to receiue the holy communion, what be their names, and of what degree state or trade of life are they, you are to present them all of both sorts?

53 Item, Whether doe any of the inhabitants of your saide parish entertaine within their house any sojourners, lodgers, or any common resorters and guestes, who refuse to frequent diuine seruice, or receiue the holys communion as aforesayde, what be their names: of what quality or condition they are?

54 Item,

54 Item, Whether are any of the said popish Recusants of insolent behaviour, not without publique offence, or doe boldly busy themselves in seducing and withdrawing others, eyther abroade, or in their owne families, by instructing their Children in popish Religion: or by refusing to enter teyne any, especially in place of greatest service or trust, but such as concurre with them in Opinion of Religion?

55 Item, How long the said Popish Recusants have obstinately abstayned, eyther from diuine seruice, or from the Communion, as is aforesaid: whether of any long time, or onely since his Maiesties Reigne?

56 Item, Whether is your Minister a preacher sufficient, ly qualified: and if he be, whether doth he from time to time, offer quiet and temperat conference, to reclaime the said Popish Recusants from their Errors: And whether they or any of them do refuse such conference with your Minister, or any other Preacher, who shal present vnto them his diligence in that behalfe?

57 Item, What Persons aforesaid, within your Parish, eyther for the Offence aforesaid, or for any other Contumacy or crime, do remaine excommunicat: what be their names: and for what cause: and how long they haue so stood excommunicat?

58 Item, Whether were you the Church-wardens and Quest-men chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishioners: and whether haue the Church-wardens before you giuen by a iust accompt for their time, and deliuered to you their Successors, whatsoener money, or other things of right belonging to the Church, which was in their handes: And whether doe you, and euery of you diligently see that all the

parishioners do duely resort to their Chvrch every Sunday, and Holyday, and there continue the whole time of Diuine seruice, and none to walke o^r stand idle, o^r talking in Church o^r Church-portch, o^r Church-yarde, during that time: And whether do all the Parishioners and their families acco^rdingly, frequent their parish Church and there behaue themselues soberly, attentively and decently, all the time of diuine seruice, yea o^r no? if no, then you shall present their names.

59 Item, Whether do all persons above the age of thirtie yeares, usually resort to heare diuine seruice vpon Sundayes and Holydayes appoynted, and whether hath each one of your parishioners (being aboue y^e age of 16 yeares aforesaide) Received the Holy Communion, thrice this last yeare, chiefly once at Easter in your Parish Church kneeling: if no, then you shall present their names which haue not so done?

60 Item, Whether haue you a fittie Parish Clarke, aged twenty yeares at least, of honest conuersation, and sufficient for Reading and Writing: and whether he be paid his wages without fraude, acco^rding to the most aunient custome of your Parish: if not, then by whom is he so defrauded and denyed: and whether he be chosen by y^e Parson o^r Vicar, o^r by whom?

61 Item, Whether haue any in your parish bin married wⁱth y^e prohibited degrees, so^r bidden by the Law of God, and expressed in a certaine Table published by authozity, in An 1563 if yea, then you shall present their Names: and whether haue you y^e said Table publicly set vp in your church and fastned to some conuenient place there?

62 Item, Whether hath any bearetofoze diuorced, kept company with any other at Bed and at Board: what be their names?

1567. f. 16. v. 1. f. 16. v. 1. f. 16. v. 1.
Cantab. 94. v. 1. f. 16. v. 1.

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names: when & where were they married?

63 Item, Doth your Minister vse the forme of thanks giuing, to Women after Child: byrth: and whether hath he admitted any therunto, that was begotten with Child in adultrie or fornication without licence of his Ordinary and whether haue any marryed wmes refused to come to church according to the booke of Cōmon Prayer, to giue God thanks after Child: byrth, if any be faulty hearin, you shall present their names:

64 Item, Whether haue you any in your parish, which heretofore being Popish Recusants, or Sequearics, haue since conformed themselves, and come to Church to heare Divine Service, and receiue the Sacraments, if yea, then who they are, and how long si'thence haue they so conformed themselves and whether do they still Remaine and abide in that conformation?

65 Item, What Recusant Papists are there in your Parish, & whether do they or any of them keep any Scholemaster in their house which commeth not to Church to heare divine Service, & receiue the holy Communion? What is his name, & how long hath he taught?

66 Item, Whether haue you any in your Parish to your knowledg, or by common fame & report, which haue committed adultrie, fornication or Incest, which haue not bin publicly punished to your knowledg: if yea, then with whom? Are there any which are or by cōmon fame & report, are reputed & taken to be common Drunkards, blasphemers of Gods holy name, common and vsuall swearers, filthy speakers, brawlers, Simonicall persons, fighters, brawlers or Quarrellers in church or churchyard you shal not fail to present their names.

67 Item, Whether haue any in your parish receiued or harbored any Woman gotten with Child out of wedlocke, and suffered them to depart againe without punishment first inflicted on them, by their Ordinary, you shall truly present as wel the party harboring, as a harbored, & who is suspected to be father of her child:

68 Item, Whether hath any person wⁱⁿ your parish promised or payed any summe of money, or other reward, directly or indirectly, by himselfe or any other, or nominated his or her penance for any Incest, adultery, fornication or any other Ecclesiasticall crime, if so then with whom? when? and for what? and how hath the same bin imployed?

69 Item, Whether is your Chauncelor, and euery other inferior Ecclesiasticall Judge, a Prebiter of Artes, or Bachelor of Lawes at the least, and learned & practised in the civil and Ecclesiasticall lawes, a man of good life & conuersation & zealously affected in Religion,

70 Item, Whether any person or persons suspected or detected heretofore of incontinency, and therefore departing out of your parish for a season, is now returned againe, or in what place else is he or she now abiding to your knowledge, or as you haue heard: you shall not faile to present the whole truth in that behalfe:

71 Item, Whether are ther in your Parish any Wills, not yea^t proved, or the goodes of the dead dying intestat, left vⁿadministred by authoritie of the ordinary in that behalfe you shall not faile to present & Executors and all others faultie and culpable therein:

72 Item, Hath any Chauncellor, Commissarie, Archdea-

Deacon, Official, or any other exercising Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction within this your Diocese, or any Register, Apparator, or Minister belonging to the same Ecclesiasticall courts exacted extraordinary, or greater fees then heretofore of late haue bin accustomed: and whether is there a Table of the Rates of all fees, set by in their severall Courts and Offices: and whether they or any of them, haue taken vpon them the Office of Informers, or Promoters to the Courts, or any other way abused themselves in their Offices, contrary to y^e Law, and Cannons in that case provided.

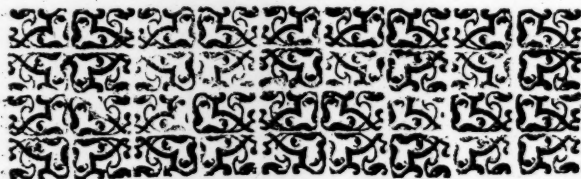
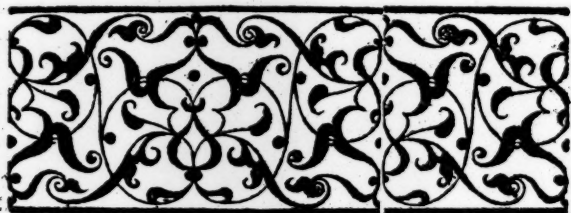
73 Item, Do any, of, or within your parish, affirme, or haue they affirmed that the sacred Synode of this Nation assembled by the Kings authoritie, is not the true Church of Englande by representation: or hath, or doth any of your parish affirme, that noe persons eyther of the Clergie or Laity that were not pertinentely present in the said late Synod, are subiect to the Decrees thereof in causes Ecclesiasticall, made and ratified by the Kings supream authoritie: because they gaue not by their Voyces vnto them, y^e shall present their names.

74 Item, Is there any among you, that haue or do declare the foresaid late Synod, saying or affirming that y^e same was a Company of such persons as did conspire together against godly and religious professors of the Gospel, and that therefore, both they and their proceedings in that behalfe, are and ought to be dispised and condemned, or woordes to the like effect, you shall not sayle to present their names?

75 Item, What number of Apparators hath euery seuerall Judge Ecclesiasticall, and wherein, and in what manner is the Countrey ouerburthened and grieved by the saide Apparators?

76 Item, Whether do you know of any other matter of Ecclesiastical cognisance, worthy the presentment in your indgment, above not expressed, which you holde fit to be referred: and if you doe, you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Oathes.

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